

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY JTHOMAS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO NIACT IMMEDIATE

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EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST ALLEGATIONS

FOR AXELROD AND THROWER FROM DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY EAGLEBURGER

1. I QUOTE FOLLOWING FROM WOODWARD BERNSTEIN ARTICLE TODAY'S
WASHINGTON POST:

QUOTE

RALSTON'S TRIP TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC WITH HAYS ON THE
OCCASION OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S DIVORCE WAS MADE ON JAN. 14 AND
15 OF THIS YEAR.

"I ALWAYS WANTED TO GO THERE, RALSTON EXPLAINED - BECAUSE
HE HAD LONG QUESTIONED A SIZABLE EXPENDITURE FOR A STONE WALL
AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY.

ASKED IF THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS TO ACCOMPANY HAYS, RALSON
SAID, "IT'S BENEFICIAL TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR ME TO GO WHEN
HE ASKS."

ON HIS TRAVEL VOUCHER FOR REIMBURSEMENT, RALSTON SAID THE
PURPOSE OF THE TRIP WAS "TO ACCOMPANY CONGRESSIONAL
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DELEGATION TO INSPECT GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTY IN CONNECTION

WITH THE FOREIGN BUILDINGS PROGRAM."

PHILIP AXELROD, THE ACTING U.S. AMBASSADOR, SAID IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW THAT THERE "WAS NO OFFICIAL CHARACTER TO THE TRIP ... HAYS WAS HERE TO GET A DIVORCE AND DIDN'T COME TO THE EMBASSY."

RALSTON, HOWEVER, VISITED THE EMBASSY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, AND MET WITH JACK E. THROWER, THE U.S. COUNSEL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THROWER SAID RALSTON MENTIONED A FUTURE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR WHICH PLANS HAVE NOT BEEN DRAWN OR MONEY REQUESTED.

"I WONDERED WHAT THE PURPOSE (OF THE TRIP) WAS MYSELF," THROWER SAID.

UNQUOTE

2. RALSTON STATES HE SAW EACH FBO PROPERTY PLUS SOME UNDEVELOPED SITES EMBASSY PROPOSED FBO ACQUIRE.

3. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE COMMENTS RE ARTICLE AND RALSTON'S ACTIVITIES. NEED SPECIFICS IN AS GREAT DETAIL AS YOU CAN PROVIDE AS TO AMOUNT OF PROPERTIES. TIME SPENT IN CONVERSATION WITH BOTH OF YOU, ETC.
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